

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03140 260452Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-13 OMB-01 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-07 /095 W  
-----054803 260455Z /17

R 260407Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3096  
INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE  
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE  
AMCONSUL PERTH  
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, AS  
SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF MINISTER FOR FINANCE ERIC ROBINSON

1. PRIME MINISTER FRASER HAS SUSPENDED FINANCE MINISTER ROBINSON PENDING THE RESULTS OF A JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS THAT ROBINSON INTERFERED IN THE 1977 ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION PROCESS IN QUEENSLAND.

2. THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ROBINSON ARE ESPECIALLY EMBARRASSING TO THE PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE THEY WERE INSTIGATED BY ANOTHER QUEENSLAND LIBERAL MP, DONALD CAMERON. CAMERON CLAIMED IN LATE 1977 THAT ROBINSON HAD PRESSURED QUEENSLAND ELECTORAL OFFICERS TO BETTER ROBINSON'S ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES BY TAKING LIBERAL VOTING AREAS AWAY FROM CAMERON AND TWO OTHER QUEENSLAND LIBERAL MPS. FRASER DISMISSED CAMERON AS DEPUTY PARTY WHIP IN MARCH 1978 BECAUSE OF CAMERON'S CONTINUING PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ROBINSON'S ALLEGED ACTIVITIES. PM FRASER, AFTER EARLIER DIMISSION CAMERON'S CHARGES  
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AGAINST ROBINSON, HAS NOW DECIDED TO CONDUCT A JUDICIAL INQUIRY BECAUSE OF CAMERON'S CLAIM THAT HE HAS NEW EVIDENCE, INCLUDING SWORN AFFIDAVITS FROM RELIABLE WITNESSES, TO SUPPORT HIS CHARGES.

3. THIS MARKS THE THIRD OCCASION THAT PM FRASER, WHO PUTS MUCH SOCK IN PROPRIETY IN GOVERNMENT, HAS HAD TO

DISMISS OR SUSPEND A MINISTER BECAUSE OF ALLEGATIONS OF  
IMPROPRIETY: VIC GARLAND, AS MINISTER FOR POST AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN 1976 (LATER REINSTATED AS MINISTER  
FOR SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIONS); PHILLIP LYNCH, AS  
TREASURER IN 1977 (LATER REINSTATED AS MINISTER FOR  
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE); AND NOW ROBINSON.  
ALSTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ALLEGATIONS, ELECTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CANBER03140  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** SUSPENSION OF MINISTER FOR FINANCE ERIC ROBINSON  
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**Review Markings:**  
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